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House Bill 811

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Presented by Joe Maurier

Senate Finance and Claims Committee

Madam Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Joe Maurier, Parks Division Administrator of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

In 2006, the state park system entered into a pilot project with the Arts Council and other partners to sell handcrafted items in state park visitor centers. The goal of the program was to help Montana artisans sell their merchandise while also helping park visitors get quality items that enriched their memory of the state park visit.

The Arts Council purchased inventory valued at \$9,082 from Tribes around the state and then transferred it to the parks division where our staff is selling it. As of late December, the division generated \$1,014 in sales of that merchandise. That merchandise will begin to move even faster now that Spring is around the corner and our interpretive programs and visitor centers begin to get busier.

The division will continue to work with the Arts Council regardless of the outcome of the legislation and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.